THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV): (a) Numbers of cases for appoinlinent on compassionate grounds considered and rejected in Western Command during March, 1997 are as follows:—

Service	No. of cases considered	No.of cases rejected
(i) Western Command Army (Including Inter Services Organisations)	21	17
(ii) Western Naval Command	5	Nil
(iii) Western Air Command	11	Nil

(b) Thft various Service HQrs/Intcr Services Organisation under the conirol of this Ministry and their subordinate oiBces consider these caSes at their level at periodical intervals. No centralised tally of these in kept in the Ministry. However, these agencies havg not recon sidered rejected caSes and have not offer ed them appointment during March, 1997.

(c) and (d) Action, as per the guide lines issued by DOP&T from time to time, is taken in such cases and appoint ments are made upto a maximum of 5% of vacancies falling under direct recruit ment quota in any Group 'C or 'D' post. While considering the applications for compassionate appointments, the bene fits received by the family unedr CGE1S, Gratuity, encashment of leave, Family Pension etc. are considered. While work ing the priority list, due regard is also given to the number of dependents the assets and liabilities left by the deceasjd Government servant and the present in come of the earning members.

Telephone connections *on* demand

*318. SHRI K. M. KHAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Non OYT General category telephone connections are available on demand in some cities of the country;

(b) if so, the names of such cities, State and Union Terrotory-wise;

(c) whether Government piropose to provide Non-OYT General category tele-phone connections on demand in more cities during the second half of 1997 an also in 1998;

(d) if so, the names of snch cities, year-wise. State and Union Territory-wise; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICA-TIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VERMA): (a) to (e) No, Sir. At present Non-OYT General category telephone connections are available on demand only in some exchange areas of certain cities.

During the current financial year a target of 29 lakhs new telephone connections has been set. With this the waiting list as on 31st March, 1997 is likely to be cleared in some of the cities of the. country.

Telephone on demand is likely to be available by the end of Ninth Five Year Plan in the country with private sector supplementing the efforts of DOT.

Violnce by extremists

*319. SHRI RAJUBHAI MAR:
SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleaSed to state:

(a) whether extremist violence con-tinues to be a big threat to the country.